

REMARKS

This amendment responds to an Office Action bearing a mailing date of March 30, 2005.

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 1 through 6, 9 and 12 through 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the absorbent carbon containing filter lid structure of Zimmerman (USPN 1,794,940). It should be noted that applicant's invention is directed to a universal pan lid for absorbing and filtering steam and odor. Applicant's filtering device is adapted to overlie a central opening in a pan lid adapted to overlie a conventional cooking or frying pan.

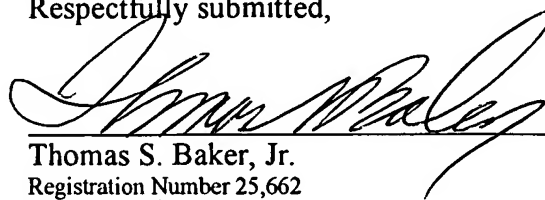
The filtering assembly is in the form of a knob having a lower half shell which rests on the pan lid and overlies the central opening area and removable upper half shell to allow access to a filter chamber mounted therein. Mounted within the upper and lower housings is a battery-operated sucking fan which draws steam and odors through central opening 12 in the pan lid and through the filter chamber within the upper and lower half shells 18 and 19 and expels the steam and odors through discharge holes 22 formed in upper half shell 18. A battery-operated fan is set forth in paragraph 20 of the specification and in Figure 7 of the drawings.

Applicant has enclosed new Claims 16 through 27 directed to applicant's unitary filtering and purifying system incorporating a battery-operated sucking fan adapted to be affixed to a pan lid having a central opening formed therein.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Zimmerman nor any other of the references cited by the examiner disclose a filter assembly adapted to overlie an opening formed in a pan lid incorporating a battery-operated sucking fan as set forth in applicant's new Claim 16. Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits allowance of new Claim 16 and dependent Claims 17 through 27 which depend therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

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